

the WEIRD WORLD
of

JACK STAFF

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!



image

1

\$3.50

the WEIRD WORLD of **JACK STAFF**™ BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO



WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
PAUL GRIST
☆ COLOURED BY ☆
BILL CRABTREE



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Welcome to this the collectors item first issue of The Weird
World of Jack Staff, featuring the continuing adventures of
Britain's Greatest Hero, Jack Staff, as well as Becky Burdock,
Vampire Reporter and Tom Tom the Robot Man (who isn't really
a robot. Or a man. Or a sat nav system either.). It's a weird
world, but stick with it, you're probably the type of person that
would fit right in.

FLAG WAVING

Those of you who've been round for a while now may be asking
what the difference is between Jack Staff and the all new all
different Weird World of Jack Staff. To be honest, the answer
is nothing really. It's still the same old nonsense you've come to
know and love over the years. So why the change in title?

One of the recurring comments I've had from people when
they read Jack Staff for the first time is they've found it a little
confusing. And I think I understand why. Because the title of the
comic has been Jack Staff, the expectation of the new reader is
that the story is just going to be about him. But that's never
really been my approach to this title. The starting point for
Jack Staff was the old weekly anthology titles that made up the
comic industry when I was growing up. 2-3 page stories featuring
different characters in different places. But what if all those
characters lived in the same place and they still had their own
adventures, but kept crossing over with everyone else? Jack
Staff is kind of the link character around whom all the other
stories revolve. Think of it as if, instead of having about 10
different Batman titles all focusing on different characters in
Gotham City, DC just published one Batman comic but used that
to tell everyone's story.

So that's The Weird World of Jack Staff. Probably just as
confusing as ever, but at least this time I'm warning you.

If you've never read Jack Staff before, then don't worry, the only
thing you need to know at this point is that Jack Staff used to be
Britain's Greatest Hero, only he disappeared twenty years ago
and people just went on with their lives and forgot about him.
But now, due to circumstances beyond his control, he seems to
be pulled back into his former role. And if you have read Jack
Staff before, this issue begins the untold tale of the Origin of Jack
Staff! So, why are you still reading this?

If you want to indulge in a bit of virtual stalking you can follow me
on twitter - I'm mistergrist. There's also a Facebook page for The
Weird World of Jack Staff which will feature preview pages from
upcoming issues as well as other exclusive news and all that kind
of malarkey. You can even check out photos of the soon to be
available Jack Staff Action Figure!

Contact me at paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

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P.O. Box 104
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ENGLAND



IT'S NINE IN THE MORNING
AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO
BOB WALKER
ON ONE OH THREE
CASTLE FM!

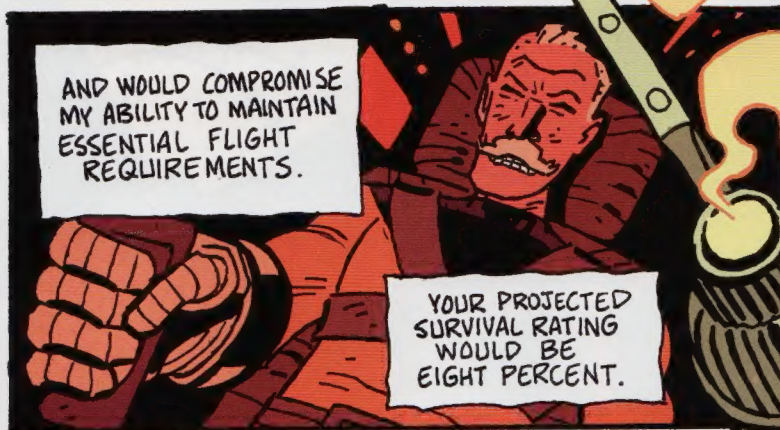
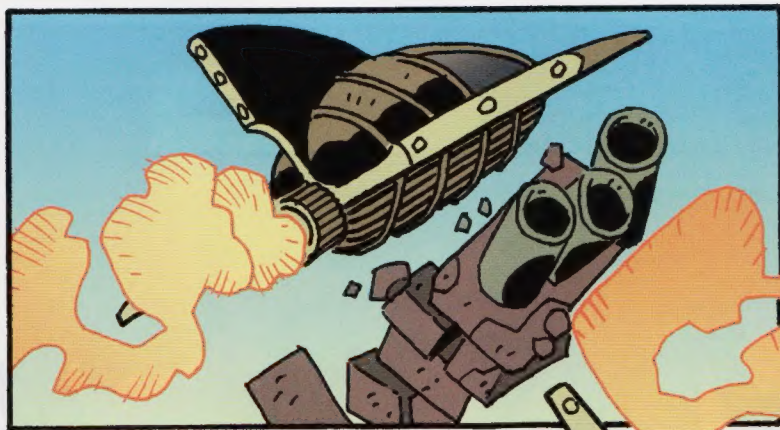
**GOOD MORNING
CASTLETOWN!**



AND TO EASE YOU
GENTLY INTO THE
WORKING WEEK,
HERE'S A LITTLE TOE
TAPPER FROM
THE PRIMITIVES--

**HERE
YOU GO
WAY TOO
FAST**





AND WOULD COMPROMISE
MY ABILITY TO MAINTAIN
ESSENTIAL FLIGHT
REQUIREMENTS.

YOUR PROJECTED
SURVIVAL RATING
WOULD BE
EIGHT PERCENT.



IF WE
DON'T FIND
HIM THIS TOWN'S
PROJECTED
SURVIVAL RATING
IS **ZERO!**



NOW —
FIND ME
**JACK
STAFF!**

**DON'T SLOW
DOWN YOU'RE
GONNA
CRASH**

CONTINUED

THERE IS A
WAR COMING.

INDEED, IT IS ALREADY
HERE. IT IS BEING
FOUGHT AT LEVELS
YOUR INTELLECT CANNOT
HOPE TO GRASP.

IT'S COMBATANTS ARE
CHILDREN YET BORN
AGAINST POWERS THAT
WERE OLD WHEN TIME
WAS STILL YOUNG.

AND **THIS** IS HOW
IT WILL END.



EVERYTHING BURNS.



AND THE **DEVIL**,
WITH AN ANGEL'S
FACE WILL WALK
THROUGH THE FIRE...

AND CLAIM HIS THRONE.



ONLY ONE MAN WILL
BE ABLE TO STOP HIM.

HE IS THE **CHAMPION**.



THIS IS HIS PURPOSE.
HIS MEANING.

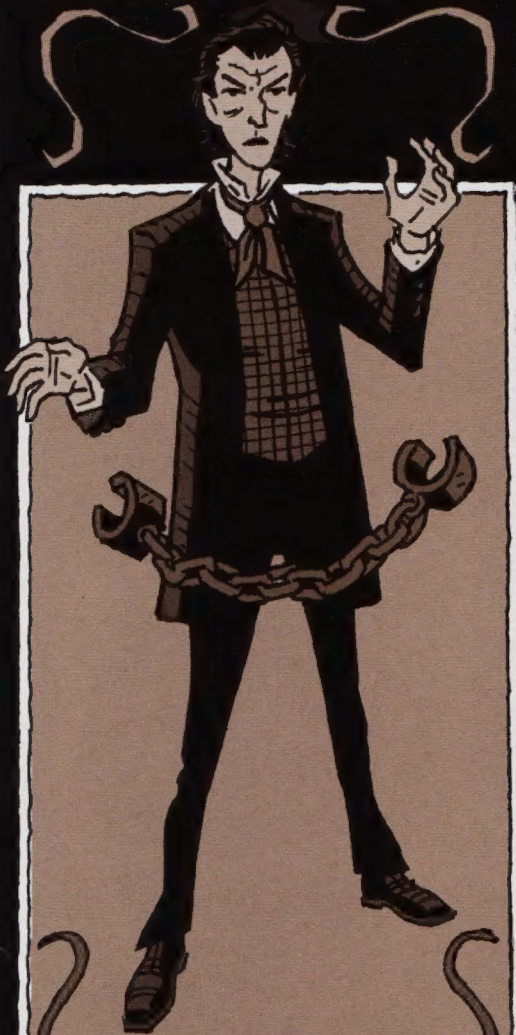
FOR HE WIELDS
THE **SWORD** OF
DEVASTATION!





NO DOOR IS LOCKED TO HIM!
NO CHAINS CAN BIND HIM!
NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM! HE IS

CHARLIE RAVEN



THE GREATEST
ESCAPOLOGIST OF
THE VICTORIAN AGE!



THE EMPIRE THEATRE,
CASTLETOWN 1875.

TAKE YOUR SEAT, THE
SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

GOOD
EVENING.
I AM
PROFESSOR
FATE!
I WEAR THE
**MASK OF
DESTINY!**

I CAN
READ YOUR
THOUGHTS.
I KNOW YOUR
FUTURE.
I CAN SEE
INTO THE DARK
CORNERS OF
YOUR
HEARTS.

BUT ALL
THAT IS A
MERE
NONSENSE.
A SHOW TO
ENTERTAIN
CHILDREN.

BUT I
PROMISE
YOU THIS-
WHAT YOU SEE
TONIGHT IS
NOT AN ACT.
IT IS A
REVELATION.

TONIGHT,
THE FORCES
THAT SHAPE
OUR UNIVERSE
HAVE GATHERED
TOGETHER. HERE
IN THIS VERY
THEATRE.

AND
YOU WILL
BEAR WITNESS
TO EVENTS THAT
ARE ABOUT TO
CHANGE
THE WORLD.



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH THE
PROFESSOR?

AH-
WHO CAN
FATHOM
THE MIND
ARTISTE
CRAWFORD?

THIS
AIN'T
'S USUAL
ACT...

AMONGST
YOU, THERE
IS ALREADY
ONE WHO
HAS BEEN
CHOSEN
BY THE
FATES.

YOU!

ME?

AND
YOUR
NAME
SIR?

..Uh..
SMITH.

JOHN
SMITH.

YES,
YOU
SIR.

PLEASE
JOIN ME
UP ON
THE STAGE.

HISTORY
WAITS.

CONTINUED.





MY, LOOK
WHO'S TURNED
UP NOW THE
WORK'S
ALL DONE!

HEY!
SLATOR!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

IT'S
CALLED
WORKING
SMITHY
...

YOU
SHOULD
TRY IT
SOME
TIME.

**OWEN &
SLATOR**
BUILDERS

WHAT?

I'M
SUPPOSED
TO BE
WORKING
HERE!

THIS
IS MY
JOB!

YEAH?

MAYBE
THREE
WEEKS
AGO IT
WAS...





CONTINUED



That's JACK STAFF. He's a hero. BRITAIN'S GREATEST.

You can call me BEN KULMER. I'm a hero too.

Well, that's my DAY JOB.

I've got the night off.



There's this NECKLACE on display in the local MUSEUM.

It's nothing special.

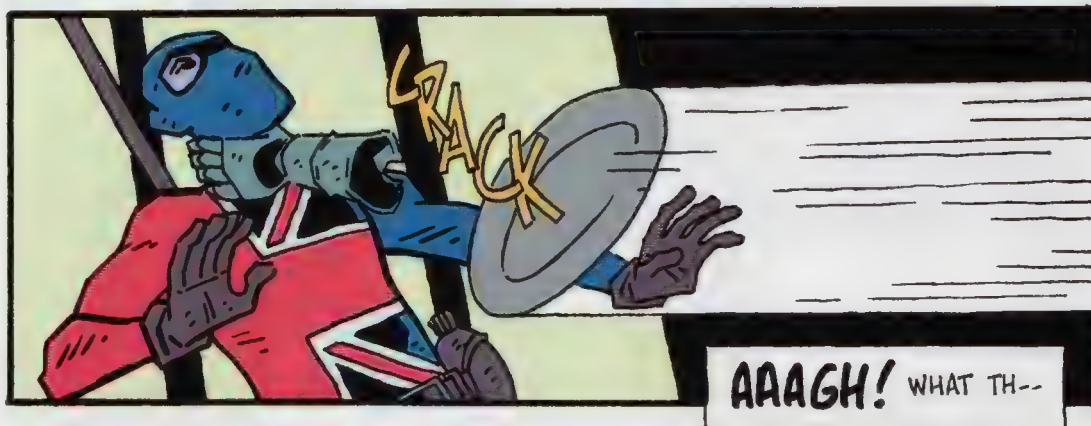
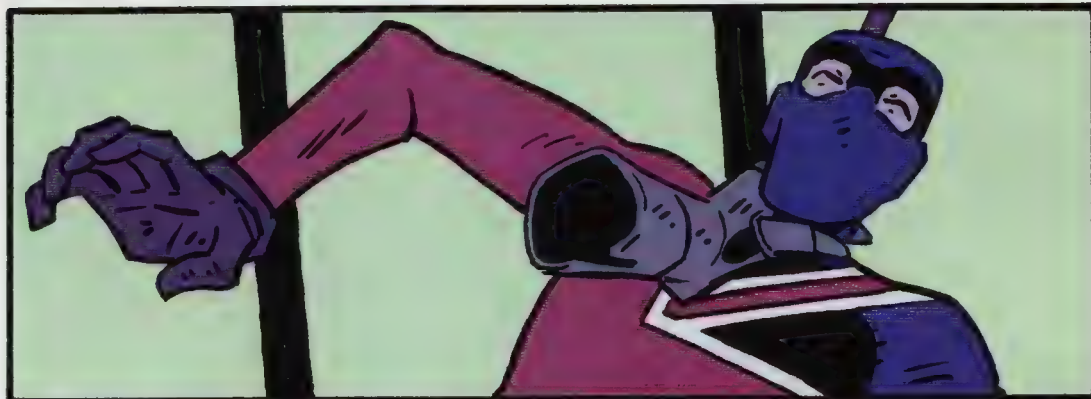
Old stones.

Still, it INTERESTS me.

I've been wanting to see it, but with work being what it is, it's finding the time.

Tonight I'm making a SPECIAL VISIT.

Out of HOURS.







I'VE GOT
TO STOP
HIM...

NO.



What's that
SOUND?

STAFF?

NO - he's
... GONE?



It's just me
and the HERO.

What's wrong
with me?

I could've
KILLED him.



I'm a thief.

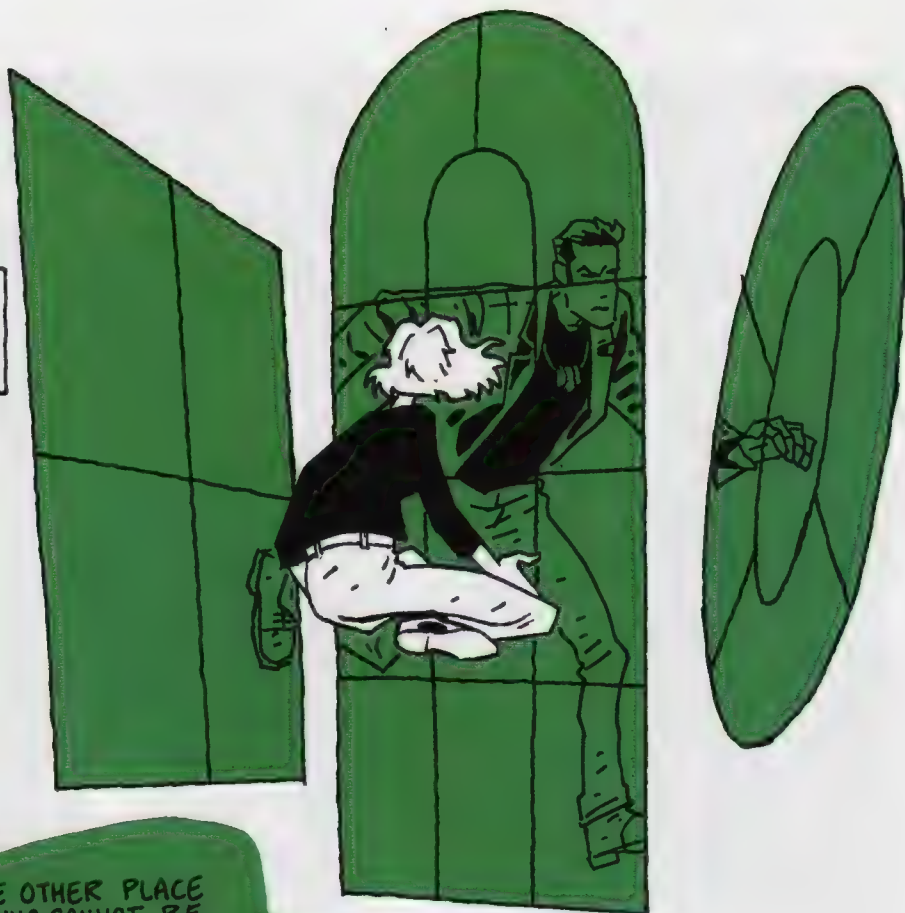
I'm not a killer.



At least I never
used to be.

What am I
becoming?

Shouldn't I
care MORE?



AND IN SOME OTHER PLACE
THE WOMAN WHO CANNOT BE
KILLED WATCHES. THIS IS
WHAT SHE KNEW WOULD HAPPEN.
THIS WAS THE CHOICE SHE MADE.

THIS IS HOW THE
END BEGINS.

THERE IS NO
TURNING BACK.

IT'S TOO LATE
FOR THAT.



AND SHE WONDER
IF SHE HAS MADE THE
RIGHT CHOICE.

CONTINUED.

They say the DARKEST HOUR
is just before the DAWN.

I don't know about that.

I've been awake all night.



It all looks dark to me.

BECKY BURDOCK VAMPIRE REPORTER

When I was little
I wanted to be a
REPORTER.

Travel the world.
Meet interesting
people and ask
nosey questions.

I had principles.
Ambitions.
Aspirations.

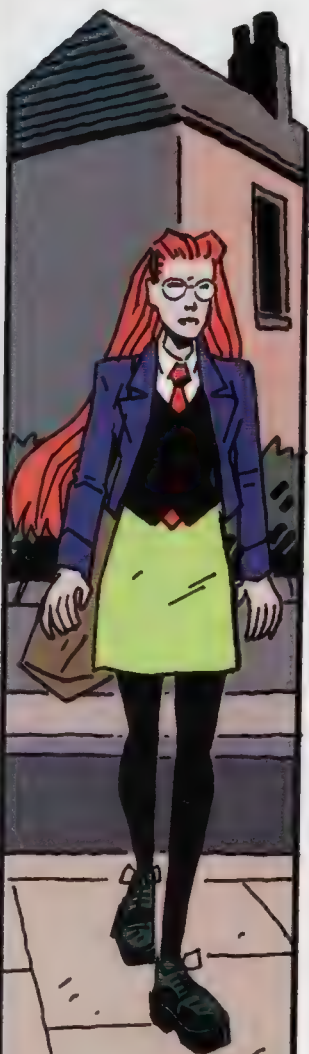


And now I write
for THE WORLD'S
PRESS.

It's the FINEST
PAPER of its
type.

If you like cheap
sleazy scandal
mongering gutter
journalism.

I'm also a vampire
(long story),
which, to be honest,
wasn't on my list of
THING'S TO DO
BEFORE I'M 25.



My life's not
really worked
out how I'd
planned.

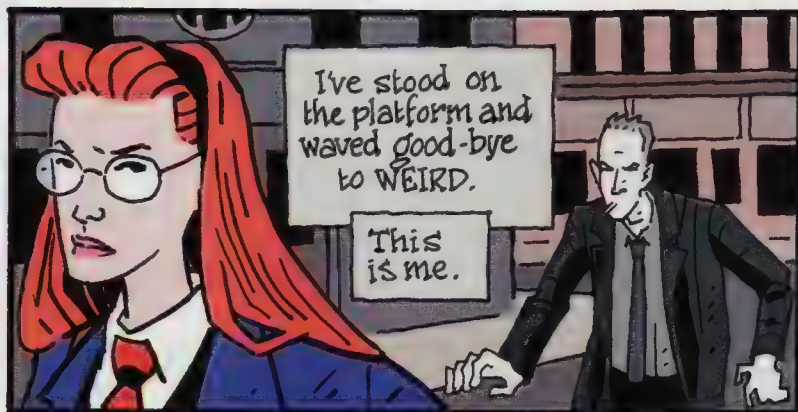
Things have been
very weird of late.

And that's not
just the whole
VAMPIRE
business.



But that's all
behind me now.

I'm moving on.



I've stood on
the platform and
waved good-bye
to WEIRD.

This
is me.



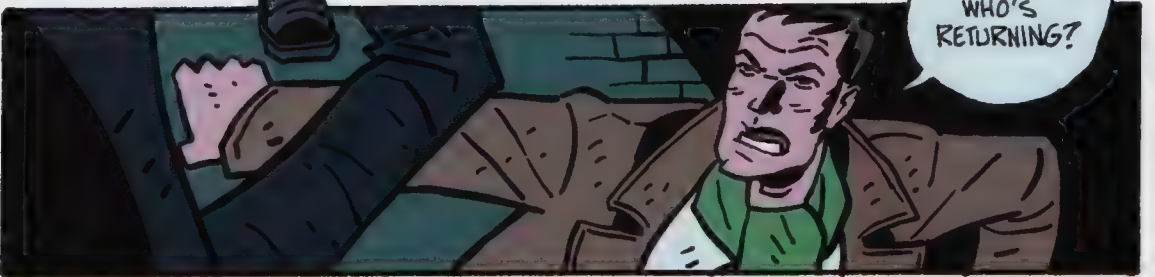
Walking
away.

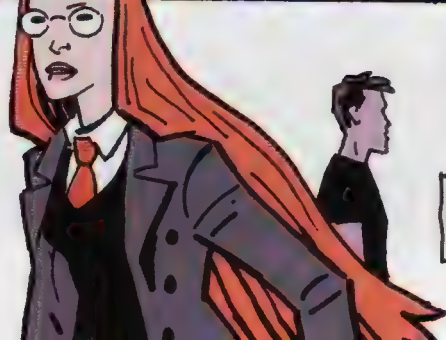
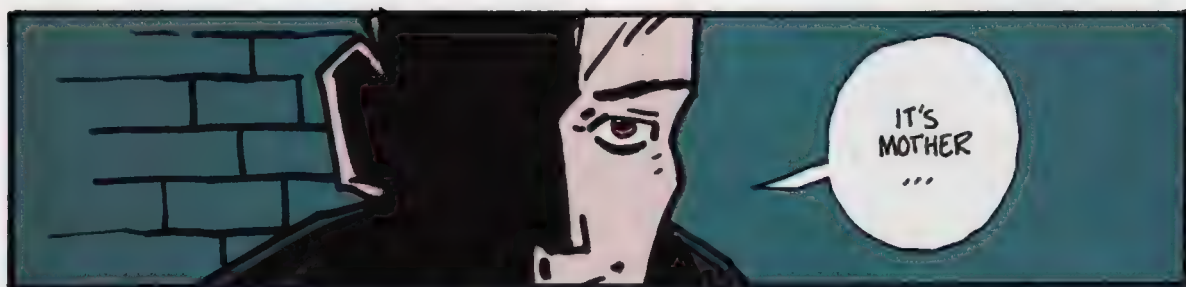


So why do I
get the feeling
SOMETHING
is trying to
pull me back?



Calling my name.





Every time our paths cross I find I'm on the EXPRESS TRAIN to WEIRD. But not this time.

This time I'm walking away



Whatever happens...

Don't turn around.



Just keep walking.



Whatever it is...

this is nothing to do with me.

This is JOHN SMITH'S WORLD. Not mine.



So why's he just standing there?

Frozen.

It's like he doesn't know what to do.



I expect he's waiting until the last minute so he can leap out of the way in some dramatic fashion.



Anyway.

Not my problem.

This is me.

Walking away.



Damn.

I was this close to walking away.



THAT WAS CLOSE! ARE YOU OKAY?

Uh- I THINK SO...

THANKS RED.

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE ...

DON'T CALL ME RED.



BEFORE?

SORRY ...

THINK YOU'RE SORRY?

NOT NEARLY AS SORRY AS I AM!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT JOHN SMITH?

HAVE WE MET?

OH YES, WE'VE MET JOHN SMITH.





SUBWAY

THE
OLD FOOL
THOUGHT
HE COULD
DESTROY
ME.

BUT I
STILL
LIVE!

NOW
IT'S **MY**
TURN!

WHY
DID YOU
HAVE TO
PICK
TODAY
TO BE
NORMAL?

CONTINUED

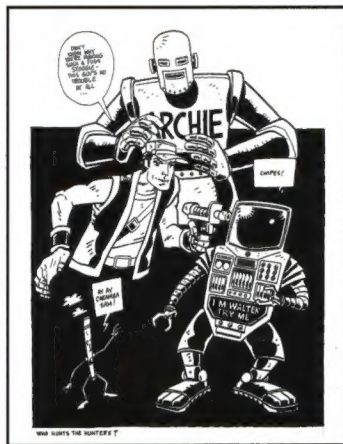
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Single pages of the original black and white art from Jack Staff are available at £75UK \$150US each. Covers are £150UK \$300US each. Prices include postage. Pages are also available from The Eternal Conflicts of the Cosmic Warrior, Torchwood and Doctor Who. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone. Contact me by e-mail if you want to check availability or reserve a particular page. Cheques payable to Paul Grist

COMMISSIONS



Own an original Paul Grist drawing! A4 (8.25 x 11.75 inches) black and white drawings. Single figure £100UK \$200US. If you want something bigger with more characters, etc. then it'll cost a little more. If you've got something in particular in mind then let me know and I'll give you a price. If you've got a particular character in mind and can point me in the direction of visual reference then that would be much appreciated.

Contact me at paulgrist1960@hotmail.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE

More on the origin of JACK STAFF! The return of Lynda Jones, Calendar Girl! All this and more behind an Ian Churchill cover!

AND THE **DEVIL**,
WITH AN ANGELS'
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THROUGH THE FIRE...

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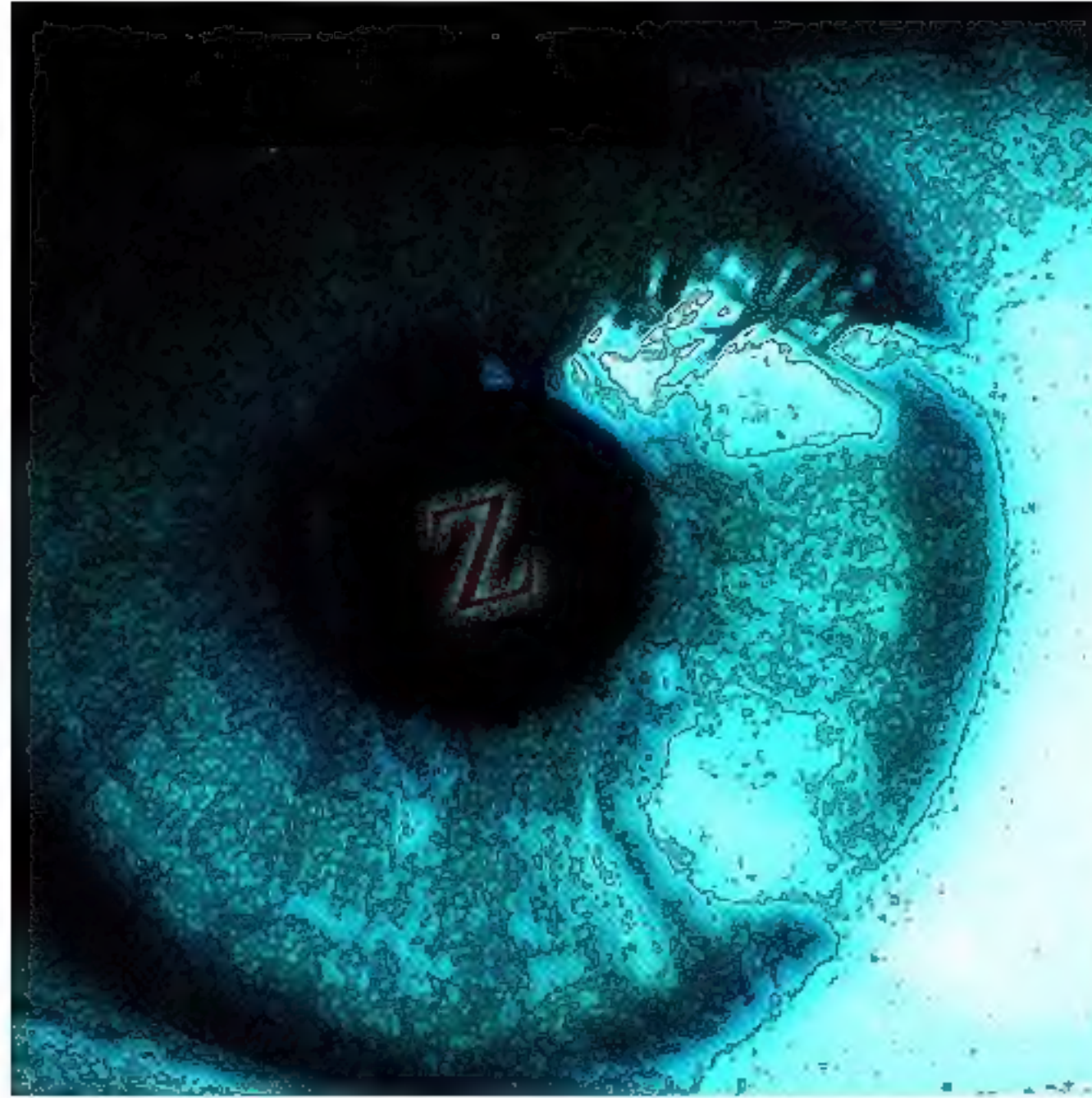
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